

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 2701

INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP BR

SUBJ: PULLMAN VISIT

1. SUMMARY: PULLMAN STANDARD IS MAKING STRONG EFFORT TO SECURE BUSINESS IN BRAZIL. COMPANY EXECUTIVES ARE DISCUSSING WITH SENIOR GOB OFFICIALS POSSIBILITIES OF ADDITIONAL FREIGHTCAR SALES. POTENTIAL DEAL BY BRAZIL WITH RUMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA POSES STRONG COMPETITIVE THREAT. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WISHES TO BE INFORMED IF PULLMAN DESIRES MEETING WITH MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AT LATER DATE. END SUMMARY

2. CONGEN RIO REPORTS THE FOLLOWING: PULLMAN STANDARD OFFICIALS STANLEY BROWN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING, AND RICHARD GRIFFIN, ASST TO THE PRESIDENT, CALLED ON CONGENRIO APRIL 8. PULLMAN PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED DIB IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR 1400 RAILROAD CARS. TENDERS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED SOME TIME THIS WEEK.

3. EXECUTIVES CURRENTLY VISITING BRAZIL TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL FREIGHT CAR SALES. THEY HAVE PREPARED PRICES, DELIVERY DATES, AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR A MAJOR PROPOSAL TO GOB. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY INFORMATION THAT FEDERAL RAILWAYS

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HAVE NEGOTIATED PURCHASE OF 5900 FREIGHTCARS FROM YUGO-

SLAVIA AND RUMANIA. ALLEGED TRANSACTION WOULD DETRACT FROM POSSIBILITY OF PULLMAN MAKING SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL SALES. CONSIDERABLE QUESTION SURROUNDS SUPPOSED PURCHASE FROM YUGOSLAVIA AND RUMANIA SINCE THEY ALLEGEDLY PROVIDE FOR PRICES THAT ARE 30 TO 40 PERCENT ABOVE WHAT PULLMAN IS PREPARED TO OFFER. FINANCING TERMS, MOREOVER, ARE NO BETTER AND PERHAPS WORSE THAN WHAT BRAZIL COULD OBTAIN FROM EXIM BANK. EXPLANATION FOR THIS INCONGRUITY MAY BE THAT SALE BY YUGOSLAVIA AND RUMANIA BEGAN AS BARTER OPERATION AND MAY STILL HAVE SOME ELEMENT OF A BARTER AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION, IN ITS ANXIETY TO ENSURE ADEQUATE RAILROAD CAPACITY TO TRANSPORT FORTHCOMING HARVESTS, BRAZIL MAY HAVE AGREED TO PURCHASE WHEN OTHER RAILROAD SUPPLIERS WERE UNABLE TO MAKE FIRM OFFERS. PULLMAN RECOGNIZES THAT IT DID NOT RESPOND AS RAPIDLY AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN DESIRED TO BRAZIL'S INITIAL INQUIRIES FOR EQUIPMENT.

4. PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF PULLMAN OFFICIALS IS TO CIRCULATE THEIR PROPOSAL AMONG CONCERNED BRAZILIAN RAILROAD OFFICIALS, BOTH IN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND IN RAILROAD COMPANIES. THEY WISH TO AVOID SIGNATURE OF CONTRACT FOR YUGOSLAV AND RUMANIAN PURCHASES UNTIL THEY HAVE PRESENTED THEIR PROPOSAL AND GOB OFFICIALS HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER IT THOROUGHLY.

5. BROWN AND GRIFFIN STATED THAT AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE AT COCKTAIL EVENING OF APRIL 10 NOT ESSENTIAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS OF EQUIVALENT RANK NOT EXPECTED TO ATTEND. THEY VOLUNTEERED THAT A TRIP TO RIO JUST TO ATTEND COCKTAIL WOULD NOT REPRESENT WISE USE OF AMBASSADOR'S SCARCE TIME. INSTEAD, THEY WOULD PREFER THAT EMBASSY ASSIST THEM IN BRASILIA BY SEEKING TO OBTAIN AN APPOINTMENT WITH MINTRANSP ON THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 11. THEY REALIZED IT WAS BRAZILIAN HOLIDAY BUT NEVERTHELESS WISHED TO TRY FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

6. WE ARE TRYING TO OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS ON PULLMAN PROPOSAL, IN COMPARISON TO YUGOSLAVIA AND RUMANIA OFFERS. END OF CONGEN RIO REPORT.

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7. TO SEEK THE APPOINTMENT REQUESTED, EMBASSY COMMUNICATED DIRECTLY WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINTRANSP, THE OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF MINISTRY AT PRESENT BECAUSE MINISTER IS TRAVELING. SECGEN STATED THAT THURSDAY AND FRIDAY ARE BRAZILIAN HOLIDAYS AND MINISTER WOULD MAKE NO APPOINTMENTS ON THOSE DAYS. HE OFFERED, HOWEVER, TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE TO SEE THE SENIOR PULLMAN EXECUTIVES. HE

UNDERSTOOD THAT BROWN AND GRIFFIN WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE BRAZIL THIS WEEKEND TO RETURN TO US BUT STATED THAT IF BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR PULLMAN, THEY COULD RETURN FOR APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER.

8. SECGEN INDICATED THAT HE AND MINISTER WERE BEING KEPT FULLY INFORMED ABOUT DETAILS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB OFFICIALS IN RIO, STATING THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR PULLMAN EXECS TO MEET WITH ALL OF THE NECESSARY SENIOR PERSONNEL OF MINTRANSP IN RIO, THAT THESE BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS WOULD BE MAKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTER AND THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE CONVINCED OF THE MERITS OF THE PULLMAN DEAL. (COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE SECGEN WAS MAKING CLEAR THAT THE MINISTER WOULD NOT OVERRULE AN ADVERSE RECOMMENDATION OF HIS STAFF.)

9. IN GENERAL OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE YUGOSLAV AND RUMANIAN OFFERS, SECGEN NOTED THAT THE CREDITS BEING OFFERED BY THESE COUNTRIES WERE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS THAN THOSE OF THE EXIM, THAT EARLY DELIVERY DATES HAD BEEN PROMISED, A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR BRAZIL, THAT THERE WERE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN THE BALANCE OF TRADE WITH THESE COUNTRIES, AND THAT FONOFF WAS PUSHING VERY HARD TO MAKE A DEAL.

10. WE DO WISH TO PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO PULLMAN. IF COMPANY DESIRES, EMBASSY WILL SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION TO DISCUSS ITS PROPOSAL. AMBASSADOR WILL PLAN TO ATTEND. IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO HAVE PULLMAN EXECS BROWN AND GRIFFIN AT SUCH A MEETING. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF PULLMAN VIEWS, AND REQUEST THAT CONGENRIO DISCUSS MATTER WITH PULLMAN REPS.
CRIMMINS

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